



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON D C 20463

JUL 22 2004

The Red Lion, Inc.
619 Danbury Road
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

RE: MUR 5453
The Red Lion, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

On May 18, 2004, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe that The Red Lion, Inc. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a), a provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). However, after considering the circumstances of this matter, the Commission also determined to take no further action and closed its file as it pertains to The Red Lion, Inc. The Factual and Legal Analysis, which formed a basis for the Commission's finding, is attached for your information.

The Commission reminds you that the corporate contribution from The Red Lion, Inc. to the Giordano for U.S. Senate Committee on October 4, 2000 is a violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). You should take steps to ensure that this activity does not occur in the future.

You are advised that the confidentiality provisions of 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12)(A) remain in effect, and that this matter is still open with respect to other respondents. The Commission will notify you when the entire file has been closed.

If you have any questions, please contact Christine C. Gallagher, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley A. Smith", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bradley A. Smith
Chairman

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

RESPONDENT: The Red Lion, Inc.

MUR: 5453

I. GENERATION OF THE MATTER

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. *See* 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(2).¹

II. ANALYSIS

Philip Giordano was a candidate for the office of United States Senator from Connecticut in the 2000 election. On October 4, 2000, The Red Lion, Inc. made what appears to be an apparent prohibited corporate contribution to the Giordano for U.S. Senate Committee ("the Committee") in the amount of \$250.00. The Committee received and deposited this contribution.

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a), it is unlawful for corporations to make a contribution in connection with any election for Federal office, "or for any candidate, political committee, or other person knowingly to accept or receive any contribution prohibited by this section." The term "contribution" includes "any direct or indirect payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money, or any services or anything of value . . . to any candidate, campaign committee, or political party or organization in connection with any" federal election. 2 U.S.C. § 441b(b)(2).

¹ All of the facts in this matter occurred prior to the effective date of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 ("BCRA"), Pub. L. 107-155, 116 Stat. 81 (2002). Accordingly, unless specifically noted to the contrary, all citations to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), herein are as it read prior to the effective date of BCRA and all citations to the Commission's regulations herein are to the 2002 edition of Title 11, Code of Federal Regulations, which was published prior to the Commission's promulgation of any regulations under BCRA.

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1 It does not appear from the Committee's disclosure reports that the Committee refunded
2 the aforesaid corporate contribution.

3 Therefore, there is reason to believe The Red Lion, Inc. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a).

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